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THE PEACE IN EUROPE,
WITH ITS LESSONS ON THE SUICIDAL FOLLY OF WAR.

EVERY humane man must have rejoiced at the news of the conclusion of a peace between the warring nations of Europe. The great grave of the Crimea, in which have been laid so many of the people of Europe, peasants of Ukraine, Cossacks of the Don, soldiers recruited on the Seine and the Garonne, natives of the British isles, and of the valleys between the Appenines and the Alps, is at length closed. A million of souls, according to some estimates, have, in one way or another, by disease, accident or battle, perished in this bloody strife between the most populous and powerful nations of Europe; there the revenues of mightiest monarchies, the products of men's highest skill and severest toil, the harvests of the east and the west, have been poured, along with the souls of men, into the same bottomless gulf from which nothing is ever given back.

At the close of a war conducted with so many sacrifices on all sides, it is worth while to consider what has been gained. In the first place, then, nothing has been gained for human liberty in Western Europe. There were, in the beginning of the war, many who thought that the European races would take advantage of the opportunity to break their chains. There was to be a revival of Hungarian independence under a more liberal constitution; Italy was to free herself from the tyranny of Austria; Poland was to recover her liberties, and it was held to be doubtful if even France would remain subject to the despotism under which she has fallen. These expectations were most confidently cherished in some quarters, and we acknowledge that it seemed to us nearly certain that the stability of the absolute governments of Europe would be greatly endangered by a general war. The event has proved all such expectations to be idle. There has scarce been a time since the fall of Napoleon when so little heed has been given in Europe to questions relating either to personal or national liberty. Of that restless class which excite popular discontents, many found employment in the war, and the attention of many others was occupied by its movements and results, and the marches and counter-marches of diplomacy to which it gave occasion. In time of war, moreover, men instinctively acquiesce in the arbitrary and summary exercise of authority. Whenever war comes, there is absolute rule, the reign of force, to which everything must yield; and the notions of personal freedom which are suited to a state of peace, come to be regarded as absurd. It is the effect of war to centralize authority, and accumulate it in a few hands. The events of the two years which have just closed, have shown the friends of liberty in all parts of the world, that they have nothing to hope from the wars which may arise between despots. That class have the skill so to conduct their quarrels that in no case shall their subjects profit by them at their own expense. Perhaps it may be numbered among the compensations for the calamities inflicted on Europe by the late war, that it has taught mankind this lesson.

Perhaps another good may yet arise from it, namely, that it will make nations unwilling to engage in war. The cure of the barbarous custom of war will be perfect, when it is abhorred and dreaded by all mankind. The late events in Europe have done somewhat to make it so. If we may judge from the bloody conflict which has just ended, there never was a time in the memory of mankind when the means of destroying life could be employed with such dreadful effect as now. Never was there a time in which armies could be so rapidly brought together, so swiftly conveyed to the place of mutual slaughter, and dashed so precipitately, and with such terrible carnage, against each other. We have seen mighty hosts melting away like dreams, and new

levies called for when it seemed as if the first had just arrived on the battle grounds ; we have seen the revenues of a year expended in a few weeks, and new supplies demanded. So quickly does war, as war is now waged with its "devilish enginery," exhaust the resources and enfeeble the strength of nations, till even they who govern them stand aghast at what they have done.

It is fortunate, in this point of view, that none of the combatants have withdrawn from it, to use the old phrase, "covered with glory." None of them carry home trophies, the splendor and magnificence of which blind men's eyes to the deformity and horror of the strife in which they were earned. There have been no great conquests, no regions rapidly over-run and subdued, no campaigns won by some brilliant manœuvre ; every advantage obtained in any quarter has been purchased at a frightful cost. There is nothing in the events or the results of the war to tempt the parties soon to renew it.

In the meantime, the issue of the war, so far as Russia is concerned, is in strict conformity with justice. She made war for the sake of seizing upon Constantinople ; she withdraws from the war after vast losses of men and of money, leaving that capital in the hands of its original possessor. The idea of conquest, for the present at least, is given up by that great power of the North, which will now probably seek to strengthen itself by the civilization of its subjects. In that field are great triumphs to be won, with no enemy to contest the ground with the Russian nobles.

The greatest gainers by the war will be the various races of Christians which inhabit the Ottoman empire. Their condition was becoming gradually better, and they were rising step by step to an essential equality in rank and consideration with the Mohammedans ; but the war and the influence of the allies have hastened this process, till now all civil or political distinctions on account of religion are abolished. The results of this change will be important ; but we do not intend to discuss them here.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

The upshot, then, of all the gain from this war, is the proof given by it, in a thousand ways, of the utter suicidal folly of the whole custom. Some good will, of course, come from it, sooner or later ; but nothing that might not, with equal certainty, have been secured without it. God will, in his overruling providence, get good out of it, just as he does, and ever will, from the devil himself ; but all the legitimate results of the war itself are evil, and only evil. As a means to an important end, as a measure of policy for the benefit of Europe or the world, it has been an entire and glaring failure.

THE TRACT SOCIETY ON PEACE.

PREMIUM ESSAY ON PEACE.—" *The Right Way; or the Gospel Applied to the Intercourse of Individuals and Nations.* By Rev. Joseph Collier. Published by the American Tract Society, New York.

The history of this work on Peace is familiar to our readers. Our lamented friend, the late venerable Thomas A. Merrill, D. D., conceived the idea of furnishing the community with a sort of Christian classic on the practical application of the Gospel alike to individuals and nations ; and for this purpose he offered a premium of Five Hundred Dollars to procure such a trea-